

**From:** [Phillips, Pam](#)  
**To:** [Broyles, Ragan](#); [Webster, Susan](#); [McQuiddy, David](#); [Smith, Monica](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: CNN Multiple injuries in explosion, fire at Louisiana chemical plant, official says  
**Date:** Thursday, June 13, 2013 10:53:32 AM

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**From:** Gray, David  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 13, 2013 10:44:29 AM  
**To:** Coleman, Sam; Curry, Ron; Edlund, Carl; Phillips, Pam  
**Subject:** CNN Multiple injuries in explosion, fire at Louisiana chemical plant, official says

By **Michael Pearson** and **AnneClaire Stapleton**, CNN  
updated 11:23 AM EDT, Thu June 13, 2013

#### **STORY HIGHLIGHTS**

**NEW:** Authorities evacuate the area around the burning plant; seven injuries reported

The plant, in Geismar, was burning Thursday morning, authorities said

CNN affiliate WAFB said the explosion happened at the Williams Olefins plant

Video from WAFB showed flames and a plume of thick black smoke over part of the plant

**(CNN)** -- A Geismar, Louisiana, chemical plant exploded and caught fire Thursday, causing multiple injuries and forcing authorities to evacuate the area around the facility, officials told CNN.

The Iberville Office of Emergency Preparedness said it received reports of seven injuries from the plant explosion, [according to CNN affiliate WAFB](#) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

A Louisiana State Police dispatcher told CNN that authorities were evacuating the area around the plant.

Video broadcast by WAFB showed flames and a plume of thick black smoke rising over one part of the plant. At least one other plume of smoke or steam could be seen rising from another part of the plant.

The station reported that residents in St. Gabriel, a nearby community, were being asked to shelter in place as a precaution.

The plant was still burning Thursday morning, Amy Johnson of the Ascension Parish Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Office told CNN.

WAFB identified the facility as the Williams Olefins plant, which produces approximately 1.3 billion pounds of ethylene and 90 million pounds of polymer-grade propylene each year, according to the company's website.

The station, citing state police, said two state routes have been closed near the plant, which is about 30 miles southeast of Baton Rouge.



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